

ENGLANDSPIEL - TALKS POLICY

(a) Try to avoid discussing the "Englandsspiel".

(b) If forced to discuss it, avoid disclosing any more information than has been already disclosed officially by us: e.g. Sir Philip Nichols' statement if it has already appeared. (However, if Sir Philip Nichols' statement has still not been issued, we should not mention that he has been authorised to make a statement. The same, of course, would apply to our letter to Jonker.)

(Statement has not yet been issued)

(c) Avoid getting involved in discussion of the details, e.g. the Bingham family; the reason why the cell sign was not recognised; the "hand-writing" device; use of double agents, etc.

(d) Take every opportunity to pour scorn on the idea that we plotted to exterminate Dutch patriots.

(e) Support the suggestion that "Secret Services" are by nature disinclined to publicise their activities and methods - but only if this point is raised by the visitors.

(f) Avoid discussing Van der Waals, but if forced to do so, take the line that Van der Waals and the Englandspiel are not connected, at any rate as far as we are concerned.

(g) If asked why we will not issue a detailed statement, say that no responsible Dutchman believes this nonsense and that it is beneath our dignity to enter into the scene.

16th May, 1949

1949

WESTERN

Z 3814/G

NETHERLANDS

Z 3814/1051/29G

Mr. G. Jonker

Amsterdam

J/B 10.473.

Dated 10th May
Recd 20th May

Last Paper

Z 3738.

Reference

Z 2738/1051/29G

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action
Completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

Request for further information
 regarding the case of Anton van
 der WAALS, Dutch collaborator

(Minutes)

Mr. Jonker is the Dutch lawyer who was briefed to defend Antonius van der Waals in his appeal against the death sentence. He wrote to the Embassy at The Hague (see) and asked for information which could be used to support a plea of mitigation on van der Waals' behalf. He replied (see):

(a) that van der Waals had been employed by us as a double agent after the liberation of Holland,

(b) that we did not believe that van der Waals thought that Schreieder, the Head of the German S.S. in Holland, had ever been a British agent.

2. Mr. Jonker has now replied that he is convinced that van der Waals was a dupe, that Schreieder was in fact a British agent and that he intends to fight the case to the bitter end.

3. It is fairly clear that Jonker sees himself in the somewhat romantic role of fearless and high-minded advocate, determined to see justice done, come what may. He is prepared to fight against the obduracy of the Dutch Government and the wiles of the "British Secret Service" and he will not shrink from tearing the veil from the most sacred mysteries. He is self-consciously Dutch and obstinate. Although he sees his client as a weak-minded man who was seduced by the dubious fascination of the "Secret Service" he has nevertheless swallowed a large dose of it himself. He has an eye for the drama and tragedy of war and believes that incidents such as the Dieppe Raid, involving the deliberate sacrifice of lives for the sake of an unspecified advantage elsewhere, are, if not commonplace, at least fairly frequent and certainly justifiable.

4. Jonker does not say how he intends to carry out his plans to establish the purity of van der Waals' intentions. He does not seem to be concerned with the fact that his client's acts were those of a traitor.

Van/

Van der Waal's appeal has been heard and the death sentence has been upheld; the final decision will be announced on June 8th. It does not seem, therefore, that Jonker will have another chance of defending him in an open court. It is possible, therefore, that he may join the ranks of the pamphleteers such as van der Storp and van der Groat (Noel de Gaule).

5. Jonker does not adhere to van der Storp's theory that the Engelandspiel was a plot to eliminate Dutch patriots. However, he finds it necessary to have a comprehensive theory of some sort and the only hypothesis with which the facts, as he knows them, can be reconciled is that Schreieder was a double agent who was working for us. Schreieder's potentialities could not have been realised unless the Germans had good reason to trust him. In order, therefore, to establish his reputation with the Germans we perpetrated the Engelandspiel betrayals. Jonker is not apparently moved to moral indignation by this - which reflects his Kiplingesque conception of the ethics of an Intelligence Service in war. He is merely concerned, in the interests of abstract justice, to see the truth revealed.

6. We have, of course, denied that Schreieder was working for the British Intelligence Service. Jonker does not believe this, although his evidence for believing the contrary is very slender, and seems to hinge on the following points:-

- (a) Schreieder had the semi-privileged position of a barber in a prisoner-of-war camp and once spent an inordinate amount of time cutting van der Waal's hair. The suggestion is that Schreieder had been imprisoned merely to hoodwink the Dutch, and that we encouraged his contact with van der Waal even at that late date.
- (b) Van der Waal was put in touch with Schreieder by Verhagen, apparently a British agent. (Who is Verhagen? Is it possible that Jonker suspects that he is one of the Binghams? Who is Mr. Bass?)
- (c) Schreieder, who is really responsible for the betrayals, was released from custody and evidence which could have convicted him was wilfully suppressed. The suggestion is that Schreieder was released at the behest of the British Government because he was in fact a British agent, and that van der Waal has been made the scapegoat, firstly in order to silence him and secondly to satisfy the Dutch demand for vengeance.

7. It seems likely that Jonker will pursue his enquiries along these lines and that if he starts a publicity campaign his main aim will be to develop the argument that Schreieder had been a British agent. If there is no truth in the suggestion that Schreieder was a double agent working for us, then whatever fresh "facts" Jonker might produce cannot affect us very profoundly. However, there remains the "element of oblique collusion" which Admiral Godfrey mentioned in his letter to Sir Hartley Shawcross (see Z 1739/0). The object of using double agents, as described by Admiral Godfrey, is similar to that described by Jonker, namely to obtain access to the secret councils of the enemy. If Admiral Godfrey was referring to

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Schreieder, and if Jonker contrives to unearth evidence to support this hypothesis we might find ourselves in an awkward position.

8. It might be as well to mention here that we have given Mr. Dancker, the Chairman of the Dutch Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry, a précis of Lord Selborne's report on the penetration of S.M.E. operations in the Netherlands, and that Mr. Dancker is strongly inclined to the view that the Englandspiel allegations are groundless. A recent Dutch press report (see Z 3711) stated that the Commission had found independent evidence which exonerates S.M.O. From the point of view of Dutch public opinion it is most important that the Commission should retain an attitude favourable to us. If, as a result of their investigations, the Commission found that there was any basis for the allegations of treachery on our part, our prestige in the Netherlands would suffer a severe setback, as it is most unlikely that the majority of Dutchmen would share Jonker's philo-Bolshevik detachment. We have, up to the present, made a point of taking the Commission into our confidence and, as a result, our confidence has been reciprocated in the most gratifying manner. If Jonker were now to produce convincing evidence that Schreieder had wittingly or unwittingly worked for us, that basis of mutual confidence would be destroyed, with results which might even adversely affect Western Union defence plans. While, therefore, I have no positive reason for thinking that there may be aspects of Schreieder's activities which have not yet been disclosed, I think it is essential to make absolutely certain, as soon as possible whether or not Admiral Godfrey's remarks apply to Schreieder. If this is indeed the case, then we should consider telling the Commission.

9. To return to Jonker's letter; he has stated the points which are not clear to him, he has shown us the way in which his mind is working and he has given us notice that he intends to get to the bottom of the story. He has not asked us any specific questions and I do not think, therefore, that we need address a reply to him. His activities may cause us embarrassment, but there is nothing we can do to restrain him.

10. We should send a copy of Jonker's letter to Sir Philip Nichols, together with an indication of the time which we intend to take.

R.H.Mason
25th May, 1949.



If Mason's mind is essentially
bad.

What we want now be told,
if only for our own information
is

- was Schreiber at
any time, directly or indirectly
working for us?

Dr. J. C.

John Hancock

25.5

200
Hancock

I agree. This extremely complicated
and unpleasant subject does appear
of tendency to complicate matters, and
I am beginning to wonder whether
it will not be necessary to make the
FBI director to take a confidential
investigation into the whole matter.
It is really impossible for the FBI
(or at least - Technical Dept.) to
get to the bottom of the facts,
especially how many of them are,
+ what damage financial involved in
concerning nothing I and we have
nothing.

11/1/1901

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Interest reported on the bonds you mention
- the interest on should total. But
no correct financial computation can afford
to count as one of the interest on
stocks or bonds.

Would it be possible to make ~~some~~ for
a meeting with "C", or someone to be
most senior & responsible person with a
knowledge of these facts, in order to consider
the legal case. (Edmundson &
Co.)

The plaintiff should copy his paper on
paper so it will not turn off any
paper.

Stamps: 20c U.S.

Mr. G. L. Bell,
S. O. S.

Dear Sirs, Please advise the Foreign Office when
you will discuss this case with members of the
Western Department so as early date as possible to
enable you to take action necessary. Only
then, however, shall any formal complaint be
submitted to justify our considerable practical
difficulties in securing an expeditious
resolution of this very complicated affair.
By returning any facts or information at
your disposal will be immediately communicated to the
Foreign Office.

In the meantime your opinions are welcome to
give an unprejudiced estimate that would be
not far from the truth directly or
immediately relating thereto.

S. P. Bell

The Royal Automobile
Club, London, W.C.1.

Nothing to be Written in the Margin.

Western Dept
(Holland)

The proposal for a
meeting seems to me to ignore
the fact that there is no one
now working for Mr. Hayter's
friends who was closely concerned
with the details of the S.O.E.
operations in Holland. All the
information so far produced has
been to

had to be extracted from the S.O.E.
files by people only generally familiar
with the story. However, a meeting
might do much to clear the air and I will
make the necessary arrangements if you
will suggest a date. Mr Shuckburgh's
suggestion of a ministerial inquiry might
be discussed at the meeting.

Sd/- John S. D. Street,
20.6.49

These papers returned to Western
Department on June 21st. The Friends
are not very forthcoming. In fact a
certain evasiveness appears in their

reaction

Moschi

reaction to our request for information. Nor do I think that the lack of continuity in their organization is really a good reason for their professed inability to help us over the past history of this ill-fated operation. There is no one now in Western Department who was there before 1947. - but we don't refuse requests for information about events previous to that date!

However... I think the best thing to do is to go ahead with the proposed meeting and see what we can get out of it. A day at the beginning of next week would probably suit best.

Mr Mallet might like to see these papers and perhaps preside the meeting.


J. Russell

(J. Russell).
22 June, 1949.

I have looked through these papers and I am not convinced that any useful purpose could be served by any further enquiry into the matter at present.

It seems to me that the four most probable explanations of this affair are

(1) that there was treachery in this country. I see no evidence to support this suspicion.

(2) that there was a deliberate policy aimed at securing the elimination of agents and contacts in Holland. This seems to me to be too far-fetched to be believed unless it were in connexion with

(3) a plan whereby certain agents were sacrificed in order to establish the reputation with the German authorities of the man Schreieder, whom we wished to employ as a double agent.

(4) that through stupidity, sloth ~~and~~ or carelessness S.C.E. failed to make use of various indications which were available of the fact that their agents were falling into the hands of the Germans.

Of all these suppositions the last seems to me to be the least likely. But however this may be, the position now is that we have received a letter from a lawyer who is defending Moschi in Holland, and that a Dutch Commission is investigating the affair. The letter seems to me to call for no answer: in fact if we were to attempt to answer it we might be led on into a very embarrassing discussion. As for the Dutch

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NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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Measures

Dutch regime, it seems to me that we can result its result. If its effect is to exonerate our services then there is nothing more to be done. If on the other hand it attributes blame to our Services, we have then soon grounds for asking a further enquiry.

W. A. L. M.

27th June 1940

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Munich

SECRET

Sir A. John

I attach a file about certain operations of S.O.E. during the war which have become known by the name of the Englandspeil, of which you may possibly have heard.

The story briefly is that an agent dropped by S.O.E. in Holland fell into the hands of the Germans, and as a result a number of other agents subsequently fell into their hands, and a large number of Dutch resisters were discovered and executed by the Germans. These stories have been circulating in Holland to the effect that this tragedy was caused either by treachery in the British Services or by carelessness there or as a deliberate attempt to build up a double agent who was employed by the Germans.

As you will see from my minute on the top paper, I do not think that we should, or need, take any action in the matter at present, but I wondered whether you could add anything to the story from recollections of your days with S.O.E.

(initials)

27th June 1949

I only heard about this story after the end of the war, but the incident is, I think, quite impartially summarised in Dr. Mackenzie's "History of S.O.E.", extracts of which were shown to me about a couple of years ago since my name occasionally figured in the earlier part of it. I have no copy of this History with me, but I have no doubt that Mr. Hayter or Mr. Joy could produce one and it might be useful to turn it up.

Actually I do not think that I myself can throw much light on the affair since the Agent whose arrest started the business was only arrested a couple of months after I had myself returned to the Foreign Office (mid-April, 1942). Whether the ensuing calamity would have been allowed to go so far if Mr. Dalton and I had continued in Berkeley Square House, is a matter on which it is scarcely for me to pronounce! But I should say that while I was there I saw every incoming and outgoing signal from every Agent and whenever I thought that anything looked at all fishy, demanded a meeting of those concerned. Sometimes this meeting was held by the Minister.

/ The

Mr G. J. O.
Archivist

The Germans certainly seem to have behaved pretty cleverly over the whole affair just as they did when they had essentially folded C's organisation during the winter of 1939-40 into believing that the Generals were ~~on~~ on the point of staging a revolt against Hitler. This particular comedy, you may remember, ended with the arrest of two of C's more important officials at Venlo.

(A)

27th June, 1940.

To Dr [unclear]

Can you have a look at Dr Mackenzie's book "Germany without her army" (which gave away certain secrets).

M.P.R

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Mr. G. JONKER
Advocaat en Procureur

AMSTERDAM Z.
Van Eeghenstraat 107 Telefoon 25287

Z 3814

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

Mr G JONKER
Advocaat en Notarier

AMSTERDAM 2
Van Eeghenlaan 102 Telefoon 252207

Mr. G. JONKER
en Prochain

AMSTERDAM Z. 1. T. 1.
Van Engelenstraat 102 Telefoon 35287

Mrs G JONKER
van Proosten

AMSTERDAM Z.
Van Engelandstraat 102 Telefoon 35287

Leiden

Postnr. 1070 DD Leiden Telefoon nummer 35287

p.s.

2587

22 February The Hague. Date & place 2nd or 3rd April.

(VO SOURCE)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN

In margin

3814/1051/29C4

Intensive Review (John Ewing) 14/01/49

1. Initial Review

In the course of the day one man was approached by yet another
of his trade, which he did not know, at about 10:30 a.m. This man had
a rifle with him, and was firing at 100' or so from the roadside, and after being disturbed
by the sound of the gun, he stopped and entered the substance
of a conversation with the man who had fired. It had been agreed to review
the gun and its contents and a day later, however, succeeded in getting the
man to give up the gun and a sketch, both in the Schmidt range in the second
form of the instrument.

The gun was a .22 cal. rifle, with bayonet, a short review of the
mechanism, and the barrel was very fine, in respect to the bore, and
it was determined that it had been made, and was, ergo the latter worked as main
armament on a tank, and that it was well made if not anyone bout
and about 1940-1941 in date.

On the way home another man was seen on the roadside,
and he was asked if he had any information.

2.

73814

Article 11

The Schrijneder case has now been formally closed, after the Special
Court just the first of the week had pronounced its sentence on the
case, various papers report. There is no comment.

HIGH COURT learning that the Council for the Defense of the wartime
collaborator van der Waals has appealed for a revision of sentence.

Nothing to be written in this box

Z 3873/G

13

Z 3873, 1051, 29G

Mr M A Robb
(Information Secretary)
The Hague

② Mr Matthews
MAR/NW

Dated 1st May
Rec'd 23rd May

Request for further information
concerning the "Englandspeel"
case

Last Paper

Z 3814

(Minutes)

References

PW HOB 4/427

(Print)

(How discussed w/
opt to advise RE HAG &
for 1st time + 14

(Action
Completed)

(Index)

Next Paper

1. Interrogation of Capt P. S. M. 30 min.
2. Interrogation of Capt P. S. M. 30 min.
3. Interrogation of Capt P. S. M. 30 min.
4. Interrogation of Capt P. S. M. 30 min.
5. Interrogation of Capt P. S. M. 30 min.
6. Interrogation of Capt P. S. M. 30 min.
7. Interrogation of Capt P. S. M. 30 min.
8. Interrogation of Capt P. S. M. 30 min.

✓ 1. Mr T. H. Brown

The letter to Mr. Rott is on PW 468/
4/929 (which I attach) and you will
see that a copy was sent to the Stage
Really it seems to me that the matter
ought to rest there now, but if you
want to reply to him now to Mr. Rott -
should I think, be written direct. Would
you like to have all three papers (the 468/4/929
and PW 894/4/129) re-entered? Where
they surely belong?

Mr. Russell

I think these two P.W. papers should
be re-entered L. Green)

Russell
5/July

Please see draft letter to Mr. Rott

Russell
17 July

and . . . mentioned on April 21, 1917

that . . . (BT) these papers should

. . . Z

in other files first, & in this
4/929 (which I attach) we will
see that a copy was sent to Mr. Wayne
Really it seems to me that the matter
ought to rest there now but if something
is to reply - this seems to Mr. Roth it
should I think, be written right - but tell
you how to have all these papers (Pw 469 / 4/929
and Pw 57. / 4/929) re-entered to show
they truly belong?

W.W. Brewster

4/1

Mr. Russell

I think these two P.W. papers should
be re-entered F (Green)

R. Brewster
5/July

Please see draft letter to Mr. Roth.

R. Brewster
5/July

Z.

Feb 6
(Cont'd)

Continued

25/2/3

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Feb 6
(6pm)

Mr. Mason,
Western Department.

This refers to a letter which I
phoned on to you. Perhaps the
two had better be married.

Z 3873

S S Y

RECEIVED

IAUUE

11th May, 1943.

Helen Matthews

Helen Matthews,

15th May, 1943

a copy of your letter
to "Englandspeil".
would let me have also a.
with any background
u can imagine, this
concern here.

as far as you can

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One condition
of any release
to Bulgaria
was of course
stillwater and

from "Truth".

We certainly do not propose to pursue
the matter any further, and our time is short.
The less said about this unhappy affair
the better. The Ambassador is, of course,
fully aware of our attitude on this subject.

You're sincerely,

(H. M. Mason)

H. M. Mason

SI No. 182645
Our Ref. MAZ/HB.

105 ZEPYB
BRITISH EMBASSY
Press and Information Services
29, LANGE VOORHOUT, THE HAGUE

Recd. 16/5

11th May, 1940.

Dear Matthews,

Thank you for having sent to me a copy of your letter PW 468/4/929 of May 4th to Brooks about the "Englandspiel". I would however be very grateful if you would let me have also a copy of the letter received from Brooks, with any background to the request that there may be. As you can imagine, this is a topic which causes very considerable concern here.

Yours ever,

W. A. Robb

Mr. A. Robb,
Information Secretary.

Peter Matthews Esq.,
News Department,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
London S.W.1.

NOTE:

On condition
of my referring
it to Burgham
you, of course,
will receive our
full support and

From "Trout".

We certainly do not propose to pursue
the matter any further, and our line is that
The Legat will shoot this unhappy official
the better. The Ambassador is, of course,
fully aware of our attitude on this subject.

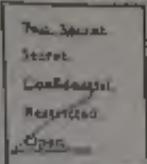
Yours sincerely,

(R.J. Weston)

R.J. Weston
127

NOTHING TO ■ WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. 23073/1051/290



Draft K2-393

Mr. W.A. Robt,
Information Secy.,
The Hague.

From:-
Mr. R.H. Weston



The conclusion
of my interview
with Bingham
was, of course
deliberate and

+ OC please

14th May, 1949

Dear Robt,

Your letter of the 11th May to Peter Mathews of the News Department, reference MAR/ME about "Englandspiel", has been passed to me. I apologise for the long delay in replying. The letter which Mr. Brooks wrote ^{to us} passed on a copy of a letter which had been addressed to the Public Relations Officer at the War Office, asking for information about the "Englandspiel". The War Office had referred the writer to us and you have a copy of our reply. Mr. Brooks' letter had been inspired by a letter from a reader of "Truth" in Holland.

In reply to our letter Mr. Brooks said that "Truth" was glad to have such an explicit denial of the allegation of treasonery and pointed out that our reply made no reference to Major Bingham, to whom his original letter had referred. There has been no further request for information from "Truth".

We certainly do not propose to pursue the matter any further, and our line is that the legend said about this unhappy affair the better. The Ambassador is, of course, fully aware of our attitude on this subject.

Yours Sincerely,

(R.H. Weston)

R.H.W.
15.5.

~~SECRET~~

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

(Z 3873/1051/29 G)

14th July, 1949.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Robb,

Your letter of the 11th May to Peter Matthews of the News Department, reference MAR/MW about, the "Englandspiel", has been eventually passed to me. I apologise for the long delay in replying. The letter which Mr. Brooks wrote to Matthews passed on a copy of a letter which had been addressed to the Public Relations Officer at the War Office, asking for information about the "Englandspiel". The War Office had referred the writer to us and you have a copy of our reply. Mr. Brooks' letter had been inspired by a letter from a reader of "Truth" in Holland.

In reply to our letter Mr. Brooks said that "Truth" was glad to have such an explicit denial of the allegation of treachery but pointed out that our reply made no reference to Major Bingham, to whom his original letter had referred. There has been no further request for information from "Truth".

Our omission of any reference to Bingham was of course deliberate and we certainly do not propose to pursue the matter any further. The less said about this unhappy affair the better. The Ambassador is, of course, fully aware of our attitude.

Yours sincerely,

H. H. Mason

(H. H. Mason)

H. A. Robb, Esq.,
The Hague.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.